

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 803

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James R. "Jim" Fitzhugh of Ripley.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James R. "Jim" Fitzhugh of Ripley; and

WHEREAS, Jim Fitzhugh was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Mr. Fitzhugh was the retired Chairman and CEO of the Bank of Ripley/Bank of Tipton; and

WHEREAS, Jim Fitzhugh was born in Fowlkes on January 26, 1923, and played basketball at Ripley High School and football on the high school field now named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, a member of this nation's Greatest Generation, Mr. Fitzhugh honorably served his country as a captain in the U.S. Army Air Corps, flying the B-25, B-17, and B-29 as a bomber pilot in World War II; and

WHEREAS, upon his return from the Army, he joined the Bank of Ripley as a part-time clerk before progressing to the roles of Executive Vice President, President, and Chairman, holding the title of Chairman Emeritus at the time of his passing; and

WHEREAS, Jim Fitzhugh was an acknowledged leader in the banking industry; he served as president of the Tennessee Bankers Association, a member of the Tennessee Banking Board under two governors, and as a member of the Memphis Branch of the Federal Reserve Board, among other positions; and

WHEREAS, following in his father's footsteps, Mr. Fitzhugh served with distinction as the mayor of Ripley and was the charter chair of the Ripley Industrial Development Board; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to serving the needs of his community, Mr. Fitzhugh was a longtime member and former president of the Ripley Rotary Club, a Paul Harris Fellow, a trustee of Lambuth University, West Tennessee Council President of the Boy Scouts of America, and recipient of the Silver Beaver Award; and

WHEREAS, he was also an avid golfer, who enjoyed playing the game well into his late eighties; he loved to reminisce about his many golfing trips with friends, both abroad and at home, and he treasured golf outings with his grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fitzhugh was a member of Ripley First United Methodist Church, which he served in many capacities, for more than seventy years; and

WHEREAS, Jim Fitzhugh enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife of sixty-nine years, Frances Craig, who preceded him in death in 2014; the Fitzhughs were both passionate supporters of public education and improving access to higher education in the rural West Tennessee region, and an endowed scholarship at the UT Martin Ripley Center now bears their names; and

WHEREAS, he will be lovingly remembered by his son and our former colleague, Representative Craig (Pam) Fitzhugh; his two grandchildren, Elizabeth (Chaz) Molder and Tom Fitzhugh; and his five great-grandchildren, Marley Mac Molder, Hugh Molder, Bebe Molder, Ollie Fitzhugh, and Artie Fitzhugh; and

WHEREAS, Jim Fitzhugh leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James R. "Jim" Fitzhugh, reflecting fondly upon

his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Fitzhugh.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.